Study Group on revision of royalty on coal

782. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 667 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th February, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Study Group to consider the question of revision of rate of royalty on coal has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the state Governments thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Study Group has considered all the suggestions made by concerned State Governments, Coal Consumers etc. and has made its recommendations regarding the enhancement of rates of royalty on coal and related matters.

(c) Study Group has already consulted the State Governments before making its recommendations. Another consultation with State Governments on the report at this stage is not considered necessary.

World trade organisation chief

783. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a search is on far a person to head the World Trade Organisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has a vast market for the products of a number of member countries of the Organisation and can play a major role in the affairs of the Organisation;

(c) if so, whether Government have proposed any name for the post; and

(d) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) India accounts for 0.6 per cent of the world trade. An Indian is presently working as Deputy Director General of GATT and is expected to continue to work in this capacity in the W.T.O.

Impact on coal Industry due to GATT

784. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the improvement and impact of coal industry due to GATT;

(b) what is the total amount of export by coal industry per year;

(c) which are the collieries whose export tops the export list;

(d) whether any booster is given to these exporters;

(e) if so, what are the plans; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has no information about the impact of GATT on coal industry.

(b) The value of export coal for last three years is as under:

Year	Value (in Rs. crores)
1991-92 . . .	15.04
1992-93 . . .	50.02
1993-94 . . . (Provisional)	60.19

(Source: DGCIS)

(c) Colliery-wise list of exporters is not maintained.

(d) to (f) General measures to boost export include directions to banks to incrase availability of credit to export sectors; reduction in interest rate on rupee-credit; reduction in tariff level on import of machinery and rendering of marketing assistance by Indian Missions. No special incentives are extended to exporters of coal.

विदेशी कार्गो विमान सेवा पर निर्भर भारतीय निर्यातक

785. **श्री गोविन्दराव आदिक :** क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बहुत से भारतीय निर्यातकों को विदेशी कार्गो विमान सेवा पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि कई निर्यातकों को कार्गो की सुपुर्दगी समय पर न होने के कारण करोड़ों रुपए का घाटा उठाना पड़ता है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए भारतीय निर्यातकों को कोई कार्गो विमान उपलब्ध कराने के बारे में सोच रही है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : (क) जी, हां । तथापि, एयर इंडिया भी अपनी वायु कार्गो क्षमता बढ़ाती रही है ।

(ख) ऐसे कुछ अवसर रहे हैं जब विदेशी क्रेताओं ने माल को समय पर डिलीवरी न होने के कारण भुगतान करने से इन्कार किया है ।

(ग) से (ङ) वायु कार्गो क्षमता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से सरकार ने एक ओपन स्काई पालिसी शुरू की है जिसके तहत अनुसूचित तथा गैर-अनुसूचित प्रचालन स्वतंत्र रूप से माल वहन कर सकेंगे जिससे निर्यात के लिए कार्गो क्षमता में वृद्धि होगी ।

Frauds over VBAL

786. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have rejected the demand of the Finance Ministry to tighten the export scheme and to plug the leakages and other frauds that are taking place in the controversial Value Based Advance Licence (VBAL) Scheme as has been brought out in the news item Captioned "FM losses battle over VBAL to Commerce Ministry" appearing in the 'Indian Express' of 25th May, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons for rejecting the demand of the Finance Ministry; and

(c) the number of complaints that have been received so far about the misuse of the provisions of the scheme of VBAL and the action taken on each of the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to go into all the aspects of Value Based advance Licening (VBAL) Scheme and suggest measures that are necessary for plugging the loopholes. The terms of reference of the Committee were as follows:

(a) to determine how the VBAL Scheme has operated in the past;

(b) the areas and extent of abuse/misuse and the loopholes in the Scheme;

(c) remedial measures; and